

7 October 1953

The following items of interest were discussed on 8 October 1953:

MICROWAVE RADIO RELAY AND COAXIAL CABLE FACILITIES

Information is available regarding the general plans for use of these facilities in a Soviet television network. Types of equipment mentioned for microwave radio relay networks are Strela T and Vesna.

Coaxial cable is also mentioned but there is no indication that it is to be used extensively in the television network. The only known use of this type of facility for television is between Moscow and Kalinin. Information on why this cable is not used all the way to Leningrad would be useful.

The attached map shows microwave radio relay and coaxial cable facilities in use for television purposes.

We would like any information on future plans for use of microwave radio relay and coaxial cable facilities. Information on location, types of equipment, and equipment installation, maintenance, and operational costs would be useful.

Television Broadcasting.

The existing 40 major television centers, 30 relay stations, and 2.5 million television receivers were discussed. Items of interest included plans for future expansion, channels allocated for television use, and plans for originating television programs other than in Moscow when the television network is established. As with microwave and coaxial facilities, information on location, types of equipment, and cost factors would be useful.

Radiobroadcasting.

The current status of broadcasting was discussed and the same general information is required on this subject. Plans on VHF broadcasting would also be useful.

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EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION - Technical and Economic Characteristics

1. Information is generally available in the Soviet Press on the production of radio and television receivers with fairly complete descriptions of their technical characteristics. Information desired but not available from these sources includes details on production costs vis a vis final sales price (factory sales price and/or retail price) and a numerical breakdown of the radio receivers by frequency coverage. A value figure (in rubles) for total radio and television receiver production would also be useful.

2. In the remaining area of entertainment electronics Soviet official press announcements are less informative. Approximate annual output levels in ruble terms are needed for the following broad categories of equipment (in lieu of ruble value of output, unit production would be useful:

- a. Value of output of studio audio equipment.
- b. Value of output of studio video equipment.
- c. How much of each is imported?
- d. Value of test and measuring equipment for Soviet entertainment electronics.
- e. Total numbers produced annually, or total value of annual production in some recent year of broadcast transmitters for 30 megacycles and below.
- f. Same as above for FM VHF transmitters.
- g. Same as above for TV transmitters.
- h. Value of output of wired-diffusion radiobroadcast equipment.
- i. Of total radio receivers in use currently, how many are capable of receiving up to 12 megacycles? Above 12 megacycles?

3. Are there any plans for using slot antennas for TV and FM broadcasting?

4. Are there any plans for using scatter propagation phenomena for TV program relaying?

5. If visits to Soviet equipment producing plants occur, the following general information is desired:

- a. Size of plant by one or more of the following measures: labor force, value of output, total wage bill, unit output of major equipments, average annual output per worker.

- b. General description of plant production processes, compared to Western practice. Observed quality of equipment seen. Deviation from Western "State of the Art".
- c. Relationship of production cost to final sales price for various types of equipment produced. What is normal factory profit? What turnover tax is applicable? What types are sold below factory cost, if any?
- d. In December 1957, the Ministry of the Radio Engineering Industry was abolished. Most producing plants reported to be subordinated to the local Councils of National Economy (Sovnarkhoz). At the same time, however, the State Committee for Radio Electronics was formed. (The foregoing is unclassified). What degree of control by this State Committee exists at the plant level? Considerable detail is desired.

6. If possible, have a tape recorder producing plant included in your itinerary. If this occurs the requirements stated in paragraph five (5), above, apply. In addition the following information is desired:

- a. What tape equipment production did you see which did not appear to be related to entertainment electronics?
- b. What tape transport stability was observed? Maximum tape speed?
- c. Any evidence or statements by officials on production of video tape equipment?

7. If question of material exchange is raised, we would like to have Soviet sample of high quality studio tape recorder.

8. Other points of interest observed by the U.S. team are solicited.